

in fasting and prayer they dedicated that country to the Lord and asked His blessing upon it. From the time they entered upon their work till they came to conference they were abundantly prospered in their labors. They held more meetings and preached too much larger audiences than ever before in their missionary career; halls and churches were opened to them, and during fair weather they had the privilege of preaching every evening. They never wanted for home and kind and hospitable friends to administer to their wants, and were in every way better provided for than when they furnished their own expenses. They had had the privilege of preaching to scores of kind families around the fire-side, and the time thus spent, the speaker declared, was the most satisfactory and most enjoyable of his missionary life. He testified that the Elders could travel in California in the Lord's way and do more good, and that God is willing and able to keep His promises to us if we have sufficient faith to place our trust in Him. The great promises of the Lord are fulfilled to the servants of God who believe them. The speaker stated that many Elders are successful now in traveling without purse and scrip, and hoped that in the near future every Elder would volunteer to do the same.

FLORENCE T. RAWLINSON,
Secretary Northern Conference, California Mission.

LETTER FROM HAWAII.

P. O. Box, 410, HONOLULU,
Sandwich Islands,
March 23rd, 1879.

As, perhaps, a few words from this part would interest some, I take pleasure in penning a short account, and I trust that it may find room in the columns of the DESERET NEWS.

Though, as is the case the world over, men are wont to seek after the things of earth, the word of God is also being laid before all here who care to hear it. There are now in this mission some twenty-three or twenty-four missionaries, and many of these Hawaiian people are being brought into the fold.

Turning aside from the missionary field for the present, I will dwell upon the prevailing condition of the world. Travel where you will, from one side of the footstool to the other, and the same sad, sickening sights of evil greet our eyes. Step into the back street or avenue of any city, and, instead of the graceful forms and figures that should greet us, the beauty that God has blessed His children with, it is supplanted by haggard, shrunken and unlovable features and forms of human beings. Go into the beautiful structures (mockeries of civilization), called saloons and hotels, and witness the cursed sinfulness that is prevalent. Men, not satisfied with ruining themselves and their own, will go to the lands of others less advanced in "civilized" wickedness, and teach them the many sinful practices, to which their instructors have been addicted. Before white men (if they deserve this name) invaded these islands, and introduced low practices and habits, the natives were a virtuous and healthy people; but, as their pale benefactors (?) made their appearance, they have decreased and degenerated, until not one-fourth of the number remains, and very little of their chastity and purity.

What must be the sentence of those who thus destroy innocence? As you go along the street, you meet little half-clothed, half-starved children, growing up to realize that they have been brought into the world to suffer contumely; that they are to bear the shame and curse of unlawful life. This is the case with thousands, and the evils seem not to abate, rather to increase.

What a grand chance the children of Zion have, growing up in the shelter of the Gospel, and free from the outside world. But are they altogether free from the evils of the world? Are they being brought up to revere the name of purity and religion? Are they being taught the lessons of life at the fireside and in the home circle, under their own parental roof—where the father's kind counsel's, and the mother's saintly influence are felt? Or, are they mingling, from infancy, with any and all who throng the by-ways?

Latter-day Saints can readily see the growing need of good, pure, honest, young people to carry on the work of God, as missionaries; to try to lift the people from degradation, and to remove vice. What is more to promote this than the evening prayer, beside the kneeling parents, and the peaceful, pure, Godlike influence, and constant teachings of the Gospel at home?

So far as the mission here is concerned, the word of God is advancing, and many who have heard and seen little but sin, are learning the examples taught by our Savior. They are hearing from the missionaries of the Latter-day Saints, of the meek and lowly life of the Son of God. The missionaries in this land are working hard, and are accomplishing great good. They are united and in possession of a good spirit. As one of them, I feel that it is a pleasure to be worthy a mission to the nations of the earth, and I would encourage all to seek that end. My testimony is, I am engaged in the true work of God, and that He will bless and hear all who will humbly seek his approval.

CHARLES C. BUSH.

KIND WORDS FROM KENTUCKY.

YELINGTON, Kentucky,
April 7th, 1879.

I have thought often of writing to your interesting and much valued paper and have been encouraged to do so by the Elders who have visited us since we have become members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—myself and husband and two little girls, aged nine and eleven, which is an entire family. We have been members a little more than two years.

Seeing a letter from a Mrs. McAsfor of this state, published in your paper of March 13th, we concluded to write. We have heard the Elders speak of this lady and her husband often as having been very kind to them when at their town, and we trust they will have their reward.

What she says of the Elders in regard to their keeping the best company is strictly true. We have known them to avoid people who were very kind to them on hearing that those people were not thought well of. Of course the Elders do not neglect their duty, but visit every house, the rich and poor, the worthy and unworthy, alike, and present them with the Gospel, which is to be preached "to every nation, kindred, tongue and people."

We have become acquainted with nearly all the Elders in this state in the last two years. There are about thirty of them here now. We have found them all perfect gentlemen, of whom no church could be ashamed, but rather be proud of, in whose company we delight to mingle, ever learning of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God, which He has set up in these latter days never more to be thrown down.

That it is the true Church of God, we have had the testimony, and we trust that the time is not far distant when prejudice will not prevent so many from obeying the divine injunction, to obey the will of the Father and know of His doctrine.

Now, as the sister from this state quotes, "the pen is mightier than the sword," we hope to be so fortunate as to get this letter published, and through this medium, cause some one to lay aside prejudice, accept the true and everlasting Gospel, and thus insure for themselves great happiness here on earth and eternal lives hereafter.

We also have friends and relatives in the Western states, some in Utah, with whom we would like to correspond, and would be pleased to hear from. Some of the Elders we have known here have returned to their homes. We kindly remember and feel attached to them by the ties of brotherhood. We have mingled our voices together in the songs of Zion, perhaps for the last time on earth; but we have a sure hope that we will meet in heaven. All our interests are centered in the Church of Jesus Christ, and we long for the time to come when all God's believing children will recognize the same, and when there will be unity of the faith.

Your paper is always a welcome visitor, for it tells us of the condition of the Church and people, and is more of a home paper than those of our own state to us.

ALICE B. ZENOR.

CONFERENCE IN AUSTRIA.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand,
March 5th, 1879.

Permit me, through the columns of your valuable paper, to report the northern annual conference of the Australasian mission, which was held at Rakauamanganga, Waikato, February 5th, 6th and 7th.

The following Elders from Zion were present: Ezra F. Richards, president of the mission, Charles H. Embley, T. J. O'Brien, James C. Allen, D. H. Packard, J. K. Nelson, Hial B. Hales, Joseph Markham, Parley A. Waters, Moroni Lazenby, John H. Ellis, William S. Dimmond, W. C. Castleton, Milo B. Andrus, W. W. McDonald, George Burnham, A. E. Asper, F. W. Kirkham, Enoch L. Reese, Joseph S. Price, Almon T. Butterfield, George S. Coleman and Horace Hollingworth.

As early as the 2nd, Saints and Elders began to gather, but it was on the afternoon of the 4th, that the great majority made their appearance.

Rakauamanganga is situated on the banks of the Waikato river, and the opposite side from the railroad line; consequently all who came by rail were taken across in the native canoes.

With the beginning of conference there were fully 250 native Saints in attendance. The first meeting was held in the school house, which had been prepared for our use, but it was soon ap-